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*Boyd Rel Gen
Lin OTA*OLC 75-1278
12 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 1975 Contacts with the Congressional Office of Technology
Assessment

There have been three areas of CIA/OTA contact thus far in 1975.

1. On 3 March, Dr. Gary Thomas of OTA called this office. I returned his call on 4 March. Dr. Thomas stated OTA had been tasked with preparing a study on the information collected by the Federal government on raw material reserves, production, and conversion to finished products. OTA then planned to determine how much information is available, and determine if there is a serious gap in the government's knowledge in this field. In connection with the first part of this study, Thomas inquired as to the types of information CIA collects on this subject. After checking with [redacted] OCI, and [redacted] DD/OER, I relayed to Thomas a general unclassified description of our sources, the type of information we collect, and a description of our reports.

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[redacted]

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agencies. Fu asked that we complete the questionnaire, much of which dealt with the extent of computer handling of natural resources information. I sent the questionnaire to [redacted] who forwarded it to OER. Mr. [redacted] OER, did not want to complete the study, citing OER's complete lack of computer handling of this information. In addition, [redacted] was reluctant to begin cooperating with outsiders on this matter, fearing a deluge of requests. After checking with [redacted] I called Fu on 2 May and gently gave him the bad news. We have not heard again from either Fu or Dr. Thomas.

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2. On 11 April, Emilio Daddario, Director of OTA, wrote Mr. Colby inquiring whether Dr. Ronald Larson of OTA might meet with CIA employees working in the field of solar energy research to compare notes. OLC was assigned action on the request, but an arrangement was developed with Mr. [redacted] DDS&T, whereby OSI would arrange the contacts, but keep OLC informed. [redacted] Chief, Civil Technology Assessment Center, Physical Sciences and Technology Division, OSI, met with Dr. Larson on 24 April and 8 May, and is quite pleased with the outcome. Other CIA representatives at the meeting were [redacted] [redacted] reports Dr. Larson has a very solid background in the field and understands the intelligence business. Larson asked [redacted] to review a report done by an OTA contractor, from the point of view of

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CIA's knowledge of foreign technology, and [] did informally critique it. Larson is interested in Agency information on foreign technology in the solar energy field and [] plans to send some unclassified data to OTA through this office. All discussions thus far have been at an unclassified level, but Dr. Larson does have a Secret level clearance, and [] would like to be able to discuss matters at that level with him. In short, [] does not plan to formalize this relationship, but would like to continue dealing with Larson informally, as the arrangement thus far has proved mutually beneficial.

At Mr. Cary's request, [] OSI, on May 13 to caution against [] establishing a formal liaison relationship with Dr. Larson. [] agreed to ask [] to limit his contacts with Larson.

3. Pursuant to Mr. Colby's directive that the Scientific Intelligence Committee (SIC) of USIB begin concentrating some resources on energy and civil technology, SIC began establishing contacts with other organizations involved in this field. [] Executive Secretary of SIC, after obtaining approval of OLC, DDS&T, and Security, arranged for a 28 April meeting between Mr. Daddario, [] Chairman of SIC, and Dr. [] Director, OSI. The meeting primarily involved explaining the function of DDS&T, SIC, and OTA. Mr. Daddario said areas of OTA's particular concern are food technology, energy, and transportation. These are areas of developing SIC interest.

Mr. Daddario invited CIA representatives to be present during certain panel discussions at OTA which might be of interest. He also wished to have a continuing association with SIC and CIA, and it was agreed that Mr. [] Executive Secretary of SIC, would serve as the intelligence community contact point; Mr. Daddario has yet to decide on a counterpart in OTA. It was also suggested that Mr. Daddario, [] meet about once a quarter for further discussions. No commitment was made to Mr. Daddario other than one of continuing liaison and general cooperation.

[] feels that this arrangement does comport with Mr. Colby's desire to make intelligence more accessible and therefore usable to others in the government, and believes this may be a good example for Mr. Colby to cite regarding the intelligence community's willingness to cooperate and share information for the common good, rather than for parochial interests.

[]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

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1 - Chrono

OLC: DFM: cg (12 Jun 75)

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TO MR. CARY

FROM: DonDATE 12 June 75

SUBJECT:

SUSPENSE DATE _____

MFR:

1975 Contacts with the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (Memo for the Record)

NOTE:

At a staff meeting in the middle of May you expressed the concern that relations between the Agency and the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment seemed to be developing rapidly without an overall evaluation of the ramifications and advisability of these contacts. As an aid to such an evaluation, attached is a summary of our 1975 contacts with OTA.

LHM - pls try to focus on this & keep it from getting out of hand

discussed 27 or 28 June H. Mowbray meets w/ we will have this OLC channels

COORDINATED WITH (list names as well as offices):

Name

OSI

Office

Name

SIC/USIB

Office

Name

Office
ACTION REQUIRED BY GLC: FYI

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Len
OTA *Conrad*
for

file 75-1179
16 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit of Dr. Ronal Larson of OTA to CTAC on
8 May 1975

1. On 8 May, Dr. Ron Larson of the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment visited CIA to discuss our review of the draft of the report on Solar On-Site Electricity that he had left with us a week or so before. Present for OSI were [redacted]

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[redacted] The discussions were held at the SECRET level.

2. [redacted] presented material on foreign developments in the photovoltaic and thermal power generation fields, respectively. Dr. Larson was particularly interested in low-cost thermoelectric cell developments [redacted] and in the Soviet tower-of-power solar concentrator boiler concept. Available information on these subjects is to be summarized and transmitted to him via the legislative council together with an annotated copy of the draft report.

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3. [redacted] presented the comments of our energy contractor [redacted] based on their cursory review of the cost data given in the report, with particular reference to the fossil fuel and solar cell cost projections to the end of the century. [redacted] favors the middle-level fossil fuel estimate presented in the report. (Dr. Larson had come independently to the same conclusion since our previous meeting.) In response to the [redacted] view that the projected solar costs seemed too low, Dr. Larson suggested that they were probably thinking in terms of overall system costs rather than array costs as presented in the report.

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4. We presented a few more points mainly of an editorial nature, but, in a few cases involving clear technical inconsistencies. [redacted] noted the weakness of applying a uniform 1:20 reduction in costs of all solar systems out to the year 2020, a point with which Dr. Larson concurred.

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5. Dr. Larson is faced with the problem of whether or not to recommend that Congress support research on photovoltaic and thermal power generation and, if so, how much of a research effort is justified. The first question is fairly easily answered in the affirmative; the latter is more difficult to resolve. He appeared impressed with what we told him about foreign developments and thanked us for our efforts in general, saying that he looked forward to receiving our summaries of foreign data. It will be possible to meet Dr. Larson's information requirements with UNCLASSIFIED reference material.

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